



Segal AmeriCorps Education Award Matching Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Institutions

What is AmeriCorps?

[AmeriCorps](#) engages more than 75,000 men and women in intensive service each year through more than 15,000 nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. AmeriCorps members help communities tackle pressing problems while mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve. Members gain valuable professional, educational, and life benefits, and the experience has a lasting impact on the members and the communities they serve.

AmeriCorps consists of three main programs: AmeriCorps State and National, whose members serve with national and local nonprofit and community groups; AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America), whose members serve full-time fighting poverty; and AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps), a team-based residential program for young adults who carry out projects in public safety, the environment, youth development, and disaster relief and preparedness.

What is the Corporation for National and Community Service?

AmeriCorps is administered through the federal agency, [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) (CNCS). CNCS engages more than five million Americans in service through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and the Social Innovation Fund, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve.

What is the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award?

In exchange for successfully completing a term of service, members earn a [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#) that can be used to pay for college or graduate school or to pay back qualified student loans. Since 1995, AmeriCorps members have earned \$2.43 billion in award funds.

What is the current amount of the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award?

The amount of the award is tied to the maximum amount of the U.S. Department of Education's [Pell Grant](#), currently \$5,550.

What is the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award Matching Program?

The Segal AmeriCorps Education Award Matching Program is an opportunity for Title IV institutions to recruit AmeriCorps alumni by offering cost of attendance benefits. Institutions who are participating in the Matching Program have agreed to provide a minimum of \$1,000 in benefits through matching or in value for at least one AmeriCorps alumnus per year.

What institutions are currently participating?

Here is a current list of [participating institutions](#).

Which institutions are considered qualified institutions?

In order to accept the Segal AmeriCorps Educational Award, institutions need to be Title IV and listed on the [website](#) of Federal Student Aid, an office within the U.S. Department of Education. An institution is considered a Title IV school if it has an agreement with the U.S. Department of Education making its students eligible for at least one of the federally backed forms of financial assistance (such as Pell Grants, Perkins Loans, Stafford Loans, National Direct Loans, and Federal Consolidated Loans).

Education awards may also be used at a program of education approved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. As of October 1, 2009, the education award may be used to pay expenses incurred in enrolling in an educational institution or training establishment that is approved under the GI Bill.

Are only colleges and universities allowed to participate?

No. We welcome vocational schools, international programs, and other continuing education options, so long as they meet the criteria set forth above for “qualified institutions.”

Why should institutions offer benefits to AmeriCorps alumni?

AmeriCorps alumni have the traits and skills colleges and universities value. They are committed to civic engagement, know how to problem solve, and offer leadership. By offering benefits to AmeriCorps alumni, institutions can:

- Attract highly-motivated, engaged students who become campus leaders
- Demonstrate their commitment to civic engagement to alumni, donors, and foundations
- Increase your school’s rankings, especially in the areas of student civic engagement and volunteerism
- Increase enrollment of community college and transfer students
- Recruit graduate students into under-enrolled programs

What is the minimum match required to participate in the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award matching program?

Institutions must provide a benefit valued at \$1,000 to at least one AmeriCorps alumnus per year to be listed on the [website](#). For example, a school offering a \$1,000 match to one AmeriCorps alumnus meets program requirements; a school offering a \$250 match to four AmeriCorps alumni does not.

Can the institution provide benefits that equal the value of \$1,000?

Yes. The benefit offered does not have to be a direct match and can include any “cost of attendance” expenses, to include contributions “in-kind”. Examples would include:

- Tuition and fees payable to the institution
- Books and supplies
- Room and board
- Personal costs, transportation

How can my institution participate?

The primary and preferred program model is to provide *at least a full direct match of the Education Award*, but colleges and universities have some flexibility in how they craft their

Segal AmeriCorps Education Award match. Below are three main categories describing how institutions can incentivize their benefits for AmeriCorps alumni.

Scholarship Match

- Full or partial match of the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award
- Scholarship program or competition with a certain allotment set aside for AmeriCorps alumni each year

Academic Incentive

- General academic credit granted for each year of service, generally between 3 to 9 credit hours
- Targeted academic credit for subject specific programs, such as an education focused graduate school offering credit to AmeriCorps alumni that served with Teach for America or Communities in Schools
- Preferential acceptance into academic internships

Miscellaneous Incentive

- Waived application fee
- Preferential application consideration at admissions
- Housing or board assistance
- Preferential selection for work study

How do institutions sign up for the program?

Please complete the [Commitment Form](#) and return it to EdAwardMatch@cns.gov.

If you have additional questions, please visit www.nationalservice.gov/edawardmatch or email EdAwardMatch@cns.gov